

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES IN VOLGOGARD

1. SUMMARY - EMBASSY HEARD VIA LOCAL GRAPEVINE THAT SEVERE MEAT AND BREAD SHORTAGE EXISTED IN VOLGOGRAD LATE JANUARY. TWO SEPARATE VISITS BY DAO AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL EARLY FEBRUARY OBSERVED NO MEAT, OTHER THAN VARIOUS FATS AND KOLBASA IN EXTENSIVE SURVEY OF CITY'S STATE STORES THOUGH RYNOKS HAD FAIRLY GOOD SUPPLIES OF ALL MEATS. NO MILK FOUND ANYWHERE. BREAD SUPPLIES APPEARED GENERALLY ADEQUATE THROUGHOUT. NO FISH OFFERED IN ANY RYNOK. ALL PRICES IN RUBLES PER KILOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. END SUMMARY.

2. FEBRUARY 3 AFTERNOON VISITS TO STATE STORES UNCOVERED NO MEATS OTHER THAN KOLBASA AND VARIOUS FATS. PRODOBOL'S TVENNYI MAGAZIN NO. 58 AT FAR NORTH END OF CITY OFFERED AMPLE SUPPLIES OF KOLBASA AT 2.90 AND PORK FAT AT .30/200 GRAMS. GOOD OFFERING OF EGGS AT 1.20 (10), BUTTER, CHEESES AND FRESH BREAD WERE NOTED (NO PRICES RECORDED-NP). NO VEGETABLES AVAILABLE. GASTRONOM NO. 1, 10 LENINSKIY PROSPEKT, HAD ADEQUATE QUANTITIES OF BUTTER 3.20, MARGARINE .34/200 GRAMS, CHEESES (GOLLANDSKIY, ROSSEUSKIY, CHEDDAR)

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ALL FOR 2.90, PORK FAT 1.50 AND VARIOUS OTHER FATS (UKRAINSKIY,

VOSTOCHNYI, BELORUSSKIY, KOSTINYI) AT 1.60. LIMITED SUPPLY OF EGGS AVAILABLE AT 1.20 (10). BREAD NOT OFFERED. GASTRONOM NO. 3, 48/ LENINSKIY SUSTAINED EARLIER OBSERVATIONS WITH ONLY PORT FAT 1.50, KOLBASA 2.40 AND HIGH QUALITY KOLBASA 2.90 AVAILABLE. EGGS 1.20 (10), BUTTER (NP) AND MARGARINE .28/200 GRAMS WERE IN GOOD SUPPLY. NO BREAD OFFERED. MOLOKO, 44 LENINSKIY HAD EXTENSIVE OFFERINGS OF PORT AND LAMB FAT 1.50 AND UKRAINSKIY, BELORUSSKIY, VOSTOCHNYI AND KOSTYI ZHIR AT 1.60 EGGS 1.20(10) AND BUTTER 3.40 NOTED BUT NO MILK. MOLOKO, 10 ULITSA KOMSOMOLSKAYA PROFFERED GOOD QUALITIES OF PORK FAT AT 1.90 AND 1.60, BUTTER (NP), MARGARINE .28/200 GRAMS AND CHEESE 2.90 BUT NO MILK. BREAD STORE, 13 ULITSA KOMSOMOLSKAYA HAD EXTENSIVE OFFERINGS OF FRESH WHITE AND BROWN BREADS AT STANDARD MOSCOW PRICES.

3. CENTRAL RYNOK WAS FAR BETTER STOCKED THAN STATE STORES WITH EARLY AFTERNOON SAMPLING FINDING GOOD STOCKS OF PORK FAT 3.00, MUTTON 2.90, CHICKEN 2.50, SECOND-QUALITY BEEF 2.90, PORK 2.40, TURKEY 5.00 AND RABBIT 2.50 STILL AVAILABLE. ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF EGGS AT 1.10 AND 1.20 (10) AND ALL TYPES OF BREADS AT STANDARD PRICES NOTED. VEGETABLE SUPPLIES WERE SPOTTY WITH GENERALLY GOOD OFFERINGS OF BEETS.60, CABBAGE .20 EACH, TURNIPS (NP), CARROTS 1.50, ONION GREENS 2.90, DRIED BEANS 2.00, GARLIC .80, ONION TOPS 2.40, RADISHES 2.00, PEARS 5.00, POMEGRANATES 5.00, ORANGES 4. - 5.00 AND TANGERINES 3. - 5.00. APPLES WERE LESS EXPENSIVE AT 1.30 - 2.50. FIVE LEMONS (NP) WERE NOTED. FEW POTATOES WERE SEEN.

4. FEBRUARY 4 MORNING SURVEYS FOUND LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IN STATE STORE MEAT SUPPLIES. AT GASTRONOM NO. 1 DEARTH OF MEAT OTHER THAN PORT FAT 1.50 AND KOLBASA 1.70 CONTINUED. (EARLY AFTERNOON REVISIT FOUND ONLY EGGS, BUTTER AND LARD STILL AVAILABLE.) MAGAZINE NO. 7, 207 LENINSKIY ALSO HAD ONLY PORT FAT 1.50 AND GOOD QUALITY KOLBASA 2.90 AVAILABLE PLUS EGGS AND PLENTIFUL CHEESES AND BUTTER. GOOD OFFERINGS OF BREAD AT STANDARD PRICES NOTED. BREAD STORES NO. 25, 205 LENINSKIY, HAD PLENTIFUL SUPPLIES OF GOOD COLOR, FRESH BREADS AT USUAL PRICES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNIVERSAM NO. 41 ON ULITSA RABOCHE-KREST'YANSKAYA OFFERED GOOD SUPPLIES OF EGGS 1.20 (10), BUTTER 3.40 AND LARD 1.90 ONLY. NEW RYNOK DOWN THE STREET HAD GOOD QUANTITIES OF SECOND-RATE BEEF 2.90, PORK 2.40 AND MUTTON 2.90. VEGETABLES WERE GENERALLY ADEQUATE WITH BEETS AT .70 - .80, CARROTS 1.50, APPLES 2 - 3.50, GARLIC 6.00, TANGERINES 6.00 AND 2 LEMONS (NP).

5. CENTRAL RYNOK ON LENISKIY MID-MORNING
FEBRUARY 4 HAD GOOD SUPPLIES OF SECOND-QUALITY BEEF
2.90, MUTTON 2.90, CHICKEN LEGS 3.20, WHOLE CHECKENS
4.50 - 5.00, PORK FAT 3.00 A SLAB AND LIMITED SUPPLY
OF PORT 2.40. GOOD OFFERINGS OF WHITE AND BROWN
BREADS NOTED AT STANDARD PRICES. VEGETABLES IN SUFFICIENT
QUANTITIES OFFERED WITH POTATOES .40 - .60, CABBAGE
.20 - .50, CARROTS 1.50, PICKLED TOMATOES QMTPN BEETS .80,
RADISHES 2.00, AND LIMITED SUPPLY OF POOR MELONS 1.00.
LATER AFTERNOON REVISIT FOUND ONLY SMALL QUANTITY SECOND-
GRADE BEEF 2.90, AND FAIR SUPPLY OF PORT FAT 3.00 A SLAB
AND NO POTATOES. MOST OTHER FRUITS AND VEGETABLES STILL
AVAILABLE IN VARYING QUANTITIES. FEBRUARY 5 MID-MORNING
SURVEY ASCERTAINED FAIRLY GOOD SUPPLIES OF SECOND-
QUALITY BEEF 2.90, PORK FAT 3.00 A SLAB, MUTTON 2.90,
CHICKEN 2.00 AND SMALL AMOUNT OF PORK 2.40. BREAD
SUPPLIES PLENTIFUL AT USUAL PRICES. FEW POTATOES
OF POOR QUALITY WERE OBSERVED AND NO ONIONS. STOP
AT MAGAZIN NO. 25 ON RETURN TO HOTEL FOUND NO MEAT,
EGGS OR BUTTER AVAILABLE CONTRARY TO ADVERTISEMENT
IN WINDOW.
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